

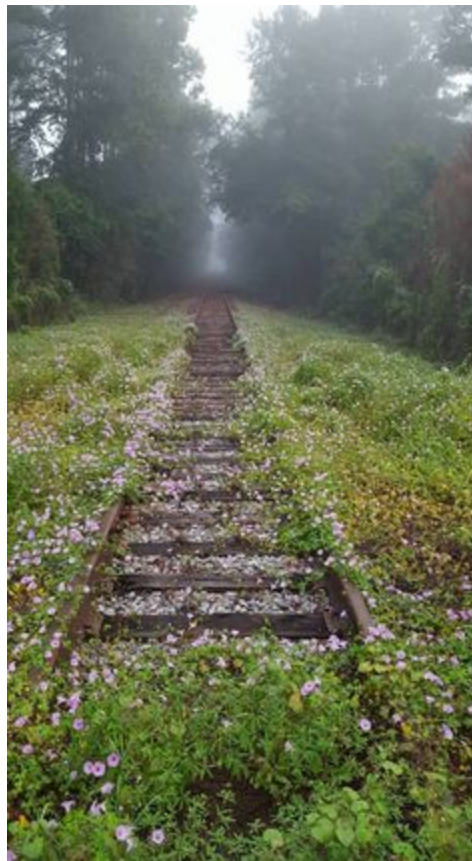
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The Railroad Track



The Wonder of the American Railroad Track

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"Stand By Me". When my youngest son (now 40) was just a little guy I took him on a railroad track adventure. It's fun walking the old deserted tracks, finding stuff and imagining yourself heading to some new fun destination. When he and I did that in Leavenworth, Kansas we even found an old abandoned coal car and climbed up it. Amazingly no junkies were living in there. That railroad was still running back in the day and we put some pennies on the tracks and came back to retrieve them.

Starkvegas doesn't have a train running through our town anymore. I miss it! Even though sometimes those trains would make me late for work. We had one crossing across Industrial Park Road on the way to MFJ.

Those tracks are long been abandoned now. I need to take my grandkids on them and find a new adventure. They are looking now a lot like the picture above. But they still tell a story. They still lead somewhere and there are probably old relics along the way.

Let's start a new movement in amateur radio. DRTOTA or Dr. Tota. It could be a great thing. Deserted Railroad Tracks On The Air. A backpack containing our amateur radio gear, a picnic lunch and a napsack to collect treasures are all we need. Oh! Add a smile to your face!

TRACKS

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[MFJ-1898](#)

MFJ-1898 5.3-54 MHz Portable/Collapsible Antenna

**Get 60/40/30/20/17/15/12/10
and 6-Meters in one truly portable
HF antenna!!!**

**Take [MFJ-1898](#) with you on
your next POTA, SOTA or single-
man DXpedition trip! It easily
collapses down to two sections,
measuring a sleek 1.25x11.5". MFJ-
1898 will easily fit with your radio,
antenna tuner and any other
accessories into your backpack.
Cover almost all of the HF bands
plus 6-Meters for true portable field
operation. It will also be great for
field day and even parked mobile.
See [MFJ-1898](#) mounted on a 5"
magnet mount base.**



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It handles 125 Watts PEP SSB. Fully assembled it measures just 21.75 inches. Fully telescoped it stretches to a whopping 103". It's easy to tune, the tapped tuning section base unscrews to reveal a nifty tuning chart (like a ruler). Learn your settings for your favorite bands, write them down and quickly retune to different bands – not automatic, but lightning fast!

The antenna has a reasonably low SWR so an antenna tuner may not be necessary on most bands. The telescoping whip is made of high-quality stainless steel. The bottom section is constructed of highly durable and strong fiber reinforced plastic. A 3/8-24 threaded connector lets you use it as a parked mobile or even as a quick base station antenna. See [MFJ-1898](#) mounted on a ground rod. Ground rod, magnet not included.

MFJ-335BT

Put your [MFJ-1898](#) on a 3/8-24 magnet mount and place it on the rail of a railroad track for a awesome mounting trick. Does that mean that the antenna is grounded all the way to San Jose? The magnet comes with 17 feet of RG-8X coaxial line so you can hook it to your radio far away from the tracks in case you are operating on a "live" one! It's a super strong magnet so it might be tough to get back off!

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Take a long an [MFJ-342T](#) mount and an [MFJ-1934](#) ground mount and then you can operate off of the tacks but nearby so your QSOs can hear the train rolling by. I wonder what kind of interference will come about by that? And be sure to wear a bright yellow shirt that says "I am a HAM" so you are not mistaken as a terrorist planning something bad to do the railroad track. That could turn ugly.

Of course, if we are talking about a deserted railroad track none of that matters, but I have watched too many movies and my mind wanders.
Have fun on the tracks!!!



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